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A NEW SPECIES OF PENSTEMON (SCROPHULARIACEAE) FROM MEXICO

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In collecting toward a flora of the Chihuahuan Desert region, James Henrickson and Thomas Wendt discovered the following new species, a close relative of *Penstemon barbatus* (Cav.) Roth, in the Sierra de la Madera west of Cuatro Cienegas in central Coahuila.

Penstemon henricksonii, species nova in sectione *Elmigera*; foliis basalibus ellipticis oblanceolatisve petiolatis, foliis caulinis ovatus ut in *P. cardinalibus*; floribus *P. barbato* simulantibus autem coloribus rubropurpureis vel marroninis non coccineis; loculis antherae divaricatis marginibus minute acutidentatis. Figure 1.

Type: Mexico, Coahuila, ca 35 (air) km west of Cuatro Cienegas in Cañon de la Hacienda in limestone, Sierra de la Madera along trail southeast of road's end, in loamy oak-pine-fir forest, 7700 to 9000 ft, 5 Aug 1973, near 27°03′ N, 102°24′ W, *J. Henrickson and T. Wendt 11903*. Holotype: RSA; Isotypes: CSLA, TEX, MEXU, NY, ARIZ, US, UC, GH.

The species is also known from a collection of fruiting material: Sierra de la Madera, among similar associates, SW Rancho Cerro de la Madera, upper Cañon del Invierno, 2500 m, 27°05′ N, 102°28′30″ W, 27 Aug 1974, Wendt and Lott 649b, TEX.

The name honors James Henrickson, biology professor at California State University, Los Angeles, plant anatomist, morphologist, systematist (especially of Fouquieriaceae), and student of the Chihuahuan Desert flora.

Perennial herb to 6 dm tall; stems and foliage glabrous. Basal leaves elliptic or oblanceolate, petiolate, the blades 5-12 cm long, 2-4 cm broad, petioles to 5 cm long; cauline leaves ovate to broadly lanceolate. 3-8 cm long, 2.0-3.5 cm broad, sessile, apex broadly acute; all leaves entire, glabrous, minutely punctate beneath. Inflorescence narrowly thyrsoid, bracts lanceolate, pedicels mostly 2-flowered, less than 2 cm long. Calvx segments lanceolate, acute, entire, with narrowly scarious margins, glabrous, 6-7 mm long. Corolla like that of P. barbatus but dark maroon-red or purplish red, the upper lip erect and shielding the anthers, lower lip sharply reflexed along throat of corolla, conspicuously bearded at base with flat, simple, yellow hairs 2 mm long; corolla 30–35 mm long, 8–10 mm broad (pressed), lower lip 10 mm long, upper somewhat longer. Anther locules opening from free tips about 4/5 of distance to common bases, divergent, glabrous; suture margins with conspicuous small sharp teeth (more than usual for P. barbatus). Staminode dilated distally and glabrous. Capsule ovoid-acuminate, to 15 mm long, glabrous.

Penstemon henricksonii is scattered on upper, mesic, moss-covered, north-facing slopes in a shaded oak-pine-fir forest between 2100 and 2750 m. The principal species in the forest include Abies coahuilensis I. M. Johnst., Pseudotsuga menziesii (Mirb.) Franco, Pinus strobiformis Engelm., P. ponderosa Laws. var. arizonica (Engelm.) Shaw, Cupressus arizonica Greene, and Arbutus xalapensis HBK., as well as several species of Quercus including Q. hypoxantha Trel., Q. greggii (A. DC.) Trel., and Q. pringlei Von Seemen. Principal shrub and herbaceous species in the forest include Cornus stolonifera Michx., Holodiscus dumosa (Nutt.) Heller, Nolina caespitifera Trel., Swertia radiata (Kell.) O. Kuntze, and species of Stevia, Seymeria, Senecio, and Solanum. The dense carpets of a goldish-green moss [Rhytidium rugosum (Hedw.) Kindb.] over the forest floor attest to the mesic nature of this portion of the east-west oriented Sierra de la Madera, which is frequently enshrouded by clouds during the late summer-fall rainy season.

This species differs from *P. barbatus* in having broad, ovate cauline leaves and purplish, rather than bright red, flowers. The leaves most nearly resemble those of *P. cardinalis* Woot. & Standl. of western Texas, the flowers of which differ in having very short lips and a constricted orifice.

The related *P. barbatus* ssp. *torreyi* Gray grows in the same canyon but has been collected only at elevations below 1800 m where it is infrequent along alluvial arroyo margins in a more open mesic oakpine-madrone woodland composed of *Quercus gravesii* Sudw., *Q. glaucoides* Mart. & Gal., *Arbutus xalapensis* HBK., *Pinus ponderosa* var. *arizonica* (Engelm.) Shaw, *Fraxinus cuspidata* Torr., *Garrya ovata* ssp.

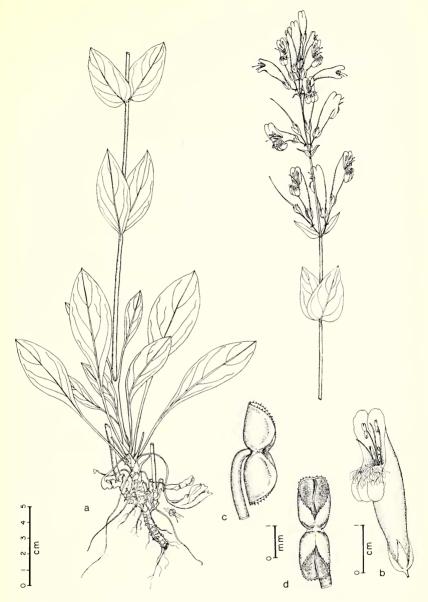


Fig. 1. Penstemon henricksonii, sp. n. a. habit; b, flower; c and d, anther.

lindheimeri (Torr.) Dahling, Prunus serotina Ehrh., Leucania retusa Gray, and Dasylirion, as well as species of Desmodium, Abelia, Choisya, Salvia, Aquilegia, Eupatorium, and Eriogonum.

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